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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 13 August 1991 from Mr. Ahmed Hussain, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning a violation of Iraqi airspace by a United States aircraft making an aerial reconnaissance of Iraqi territory.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 August 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 6 August 1991 from Mr. Wissam Az-Zahawi, Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to Mr. Rolf Ekéus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission in New York, on the subject of reconnaissance aircraft, a copy of which was transmitted to you by our Permanent Representative, in which we stated our objections to this activity.

I should like to inform you that on 12 August 1991, at 1200 hours local time, an American aircraft making an aerial reconnaissance of Iraqi territory entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi airspace and left at 1515 hours on the same day.

This operation constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraqi airspace and a blatant aggression against the territorial integrity of Iraq, and is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

In informing you of this violation I wish formally to place on record our denunciation of this operation which constitutes a grave precedent for the territorial integrity and the inviolability of the airspace of the States Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Ahmed HUSSAIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs